

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BANGKO 06235 111318Z

47

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 SCA-01 SR-02 ORM-01

DODE-00 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 VO-03 L-02 NSC-05

NSCE-00 SP-02 PRS-01 AID-05 FDRE-00 EUR-12 H-02

USIE-00 /069 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2620

S E C R E T BANGKOK 6235

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR, CB

SUBJECT: ONWARD MOVEMENT OF CAMBODIANS

REF: A) BANGKOK 6141; B) BANGKOK 6142; C) STATE 81843

1. FROM READING REF C, I HAVE DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT QUESTION OF ONWARD MOVEMENT OF CAMBODIAN REFUGEES TO UNITED STATES OR OTHER DESTINATION IS BEING TREATED IN WASHINGTON AS TECHNICAL MATTER CENTERING AROUND VISA PROCEDURES, ETC. WHILE I RECOGNIZE THAT THERE ARE LEGAL AND OTHER TECHNICAL PROBLEMS TO BE RESOLVED, I MUST ASK THAT THIS MATTER BE TREATED AS THE ESSENTIALLY POLITICAL MATTER IT IS (BOTH IN THAILAND AND THE U.S.), AND DEALT WITH AS SUCH BY DEPARTMENT.

2. I HAVE ASSURED RTG THAT WE WILL MOVE THESE EVACUEES OUT OF THAILAND AS PROMPTLY AS POSSIBLE. ON THAT BASIS, THE THAI HAVE GONE OUT OF THEIR WAY TO BE HELPFUL AND BENT THEIR OWN VISA RULES AND REGULATIONS. IT IS TIME NOW FOR US TO MAKE A SHOWING OF GOOD FAITH BY BEGINNING TO MOVE THE CAMBODIANS ONWARD. UNLESS WE DO THIS, WE WILL FIND IT DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN SIMILAR COOPERATION IN EVEN MORE DIFFICULT SITUATIONS THAT MIGHT ARISE IN THE FUTURE. THERE

SECRET

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PAGE 02 BANGKO 06235 111318Z

IS ALSO THE DISTINCT POSSIBILITY (REF A) THAT CAMP AT

UTAPAO, WHERE REFUGEES ARE ALREADY BEGINNING TO GRUMBLE,
MAY WELL SPARK UNFAVORABLE PRESS COMMENT WHICH WOULD
REFLECT ADVERSELY ON USG.

3. SINCE THE PRESIDENT, IN HIS SPEECH THIS MORNING, MADE
NO REFERENCE TO SPECIAL NEW REFUGEE LEGISLATION, IT WOULD
APPEAR THAT THE CAMBODIAN REFUGEES MUST BE PROCESSED UNDER
EXISTING RULES. IF THIS MEANS THAT THE ONLY WAY FOR THEM
TO ENTER THE U.S. QUICKLY IS UNDER PAROLE PROCEDURES, WE
SHOULD BE TOLD SO IMMEDIATELY AND BEGIN TO MOVE THEM. WE
HAVE ALSO HAD NO RESPONSE TO OUR QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THE
USG HAS APPROACHED OTHER COUNTRIES THAT ARE POTENTIAL
DESTINATIONS OF CAMBODIAN REFUGEES, PARTICULARLY FRANCE.

4. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE BE PROVIDED WITH CLEAR AND
POSITIVE ANSWERS IMMEDIATELY.

MASTERS

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NNN

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